

This report is provided to the Idaho Department of Lands and the Idaho Board of Land Commissioners in accordance with Contract Purchase Order CPO01084. This contract is for consultant services to implement findings and recommendations in the December 2000 Federal Lands Task Force Working Group Report, *Breaking the Gridlock: Federal Pilot Projects in Idaho*. This is the written report regarding implementation activities and actions under the contract.

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In July 1998, the Idaho Federal Land Task Force Report *New Approaches for Managing Federally Administered Lands* identified "gridlock" in agency decision-making as a major problem that impairs community and environmental values on federal lands in Idaho. To address this and related resource management issues, the Task Force Report recommended consideration of pilot projects to test three alternative approaches to managing federal lands in Idaho: 1) collaborative; 2) cooperative; and 3) trust lands. In December 2000 the Idaho Federal Land Task Working Group Report found that "gridlock" and related problems persist. The Working Group Report described and recommended five specific pilot projects for consideration to test the alternative approaches in the earlier Task Force Report.

Over the past year, we have engaged with Working Group members, the Idaho Congressional Delegation, and numerous constituencies to implement Working Group Report pilot project findings and recommendations. A significant milestone has been reached with introduction of federal legislation to implement a pilot project adapted from the Clearwater Basin Stewardship Collaborative project described in the Report. The Clearwater Basin Project Act (H.R. 5629) sets out a pilot project to test a collaborative alternative to "gridlock" for high priority stewardship activities on Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forest lands in the Clearwater Basin. H.R. 5629 positions the Clearwater Basin project for further consideration in Congress by early 2003. It also provides a template for other pilot project proposals or broader pilot project authorization legislation. We have attained other substantial implementation progress, described in this report.

Much work remains for the Clearwater Basin or other pilot projects to become a reality. Our recommendations for further implementation steps include: 1) Further support for refinement and enactment of H.R. 5629; 2) further work with agencies and local constituents towards implementing a project based on the Twin Falls/Cassia Resource Enhancement Trust proposal in the Working Group Report; 3) similar efforts towards implementing projects based on the other three proposals in the Report; 4) further pursuit of more general pilot project authorization and funding legislation; 5) continued coordination with other pilot project, forest restoration, and "gridlock" reform efforts nationwide.